AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 22 and ending on page 6, line 11 as follows:

One approach to maintaining proper control and synchronization in a variable-speed inserter machine is disclosed in the following series of related disclosures: U.S. Patent Numbers 5,823,521; 5,941,516; 5,949,687; 5,954,323; and 5,975,514; all of which issued to Emigh et al. and are owned by Bell & Howell Mail and Messaging Technologies Co. In the main embodiment disclosed in these patens, a Phillipsburg-type mail inserter machine has twelve stations or subassemblies, all of which operate (i.e., are activated and deactivated) in timed relation over the 360-degree timing cycle of the inserter machine. The respective operations of these stations is put under computer-driven, adaptive control, in order to compensate for the electromechanical time lags exhibited by certain components such as pneumatic cylinders that require extension and retraction. As a result, the ON-OFF control signal used to initiate and terminate the respective electromechanical functions of the actuator-type components can be adjusted in response to a change in machine speed, thereby maintaining correct timing of the various components.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 21 on page 13 and ending on page 14, line 10 as follows:

Referring now to Figure 1, an inserting apparatus or system generally designated **10**, is schematically illustrated. Inserting apparatus **10** includes a master drive assembly **15** that

typically drives a primary function such as the transport of inserts downstream to one or more assemblies associated with insertion apparatus **10**. Master drive assembly **15** includes a rotating component (not specifically shown), such as a motor-driven drive shaft, which might be mechanically linked to other rotating components as understood by persons skilled in the art. An encoder **20** or similar device interfaces with the rotating component of master drive assembly **15**. Encoder **20** measures the rate at which master drive assembly **15** is physically rotating (i.e., the master cycle speed) in encoder pulses per second, and converts this measurement into an electrical output signal. The encoder signal is read and interpreted by a motion controller C, which includes an I/O interface, signal conditioning and amplification elements, and associated circuitry as understood by persons skilled in the art.